

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Larson on 12/2/11.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 22-25 have been canceled.

Claims 26-29 are amended as seen below.

26. (Currently amended) A partially assembled aircraft, comprising:
a substantially cylindrical fuselage; and
a prefabricated lower cargo deck floor module comprising at least one floor element, a functional unit for a cargo transportation means attached to said floor element and at least one floor beam supporting said at least one floor element and adapted for connection to a skin of said aircraft at at least three different points of the floor beam: at a first point along a longitudinally bisecting vertical plane that extends through the lower most and upper most portions of the aircraft skin, at a second point to a first side portion of said aircraft and at a third point to a second side portion of said aircraft laterally opposite said first side portion, said floor element being rigidly connected to said at least one floor

beam, wherein said prefabricated lower cargo deck floor module rests within said substantially cylindrical fuselage without said prefabricated cargo floor module being connected to said fuselage.

27. (Currently amended) Floor for a lower cargo compartment of an aircraft, comprising:

at least one lower cargo compartment floor element;

a functional unit for a cargo transportation means attached to said floor element; and at least one floor beam supporting said at least one floor element and adapted for connection to a skin of the aircraft at at least three different points of the floor beam: at a first point along a longitudinally bisecting vertical plane that extends through the lower most and upper most portions of the aircraft skin, at a second point to a first side portion of

said aircraft and at a third point to a second side portion of said aircraft laterally opposite said first side portion, said floor element being rigidly connected to said at least one floor beam and thereby forming a prefabricated floor module adapted for installation in the aircraft, wherein said floor module comprises at least one of a water tank and a waste water tank.

28. (Currently amended) An aircraft, comprising:

a substantially cylindrical fuselage; and

a prefabricated cargo floor module mounted at an ultimate position within said substantially cylindrical fuselage to form at least a portion of a lower cargo deck of said aircraft, wherein

said prefabricated cargo floor module comprises at least one floor element, a

functional unit for a cargo transportation means attached to said floor element and at least one floor beam supporting said at least one floor element and adapted for connection to a skin of said aircraft at at least three different points of the floor beam: at a first point along a longitudinally bisecting vertical plane that extends through the lower most and upper most portions of the aircraft skin, at a second point to a first side portion of said aircraft and at a third point to a second side portion of said aircraft laterally opposite said first side portion, said floor element being rigidly connected to said at least one floor beam, and said substantially cylindrical fuselage and said prefabricated cargo floor module are configured and adapted such that said substantially cylindrical fuselage receives and supports said prefabricated cargo floor module substantially at said ultimate position prior to said prefabricated cargo floor module being connected to said fuselage,

29, (Currently amended) A prefabricated cargo floor module for mounting at an ultimate position within a substantially cylindrical fuselage of an aircraft to form at least a portion of a lower cargo deck of said aircraft, comprising:
at least one lower cargo deck floor element;
a functional unit for a cargo transportation means attached to said floor element; and
at least one floor beam supporting said at least one floor element and adapted for connection to a skin of said aircraft at at least three different pOints of the floor beam: at a first point along a longitudinally bisecting vertical plane that

extends through the lower most and upper most portions of the aircraft skin, at a second point to a first side portion of said aircraft and at a third point to a second side portion of said aircraft laterally opposite said first side portion, wherein

said floor element is rigidly connected to said at least one floor beam, and said prefabricated cargo floor module is configured and adapted to be received and supported by said substantially cylindrical fuselage substantially at said ultimate position prior to said prefabricated cargo floor module being connected to said fuselage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TIEN DINH whose telephone number is (571)272-6899. The examiner can normally be reached on 12-8.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Collins can be reached on 571-272-6886. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tien Dinh/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3644